

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the drawings and required that the latch as claimed in claims 25 and 41 be shown or the feature(s) cancelled from the claims. The latch has been cancelled from the claims.

The Examiner objected to the drawings further because none of the drawings show the handle capable of pivoting. Formal drawings are attached which include Figures 13 and 14 which show the handle pivoting. The pivoting handle is part of the well known push-pull door handle, as shown by Merryman (6,102,451) of record for instance.

Claims 25-41 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 because it is "unclear if applicant is trying to claim the assist device (the hollow bar) in combination with the door handle and the door latch." Applicants have invented a door handle assist system. The latch has been cancelled from the claims.

The Examiner objected to the claimed pivot piece. In the new claims, the "pivot piece" has been replaced by "piece".

Claims 25-27, 31-33, 36 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Merryman (6,102,451). The Examiner alleges that element 29 of Merryman is a door handle. Element 29 is described by Merryman as a bracket (col.4, line 45). It does not look like a handle and it does not function like a handle. New claim 42 recites a piece "attached " to the handle and "immovable relative to the handle" and new claim 53 recites a piece "fastened" to the handle and "immovable relative to the handle." Merryman's piece is movable relative to the handle (pivots).

As to claims 27 and 39, the Examiner alleges that in Merryman the bar near the pivot area rests entirely within the bracket; but a close inspection of Fig. 4 of Merryman shows the bar protruding outwardly from the bracket (a line drawn from points 12 and 13 passes through the bar).

As to claims 31 and 40, the Examiner alleges that the pivot means passes through the top part of the bar and through the top part of the u-shaped bracket; but it appears that in fact it passes through the center of the bar.

Claims 25, 32, 33 and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Christensen (3,025,095). The Examiner alleges that 18 of Christensen is a "pivot means". Christensen describes 18 as a screw (col.1, lines 38-40). It is not understood how it can be said that the bar 16 pivots about the screw. The pivoting appears to be in the flexible material. The Examiner alleges further that element 22 of Christensen is a handle. It is described by Christensen as a flexible member. In any event, since 22 is flexible, the piece is not immovable relative to 22. Further the piece is not "attached" or "fastened" to the flexible material. It is loose.

In new claim 58, the latch and pivot piece have been cancelled from the claim and hence the claim is in condition for allowance.

All the new dependent claims are patentable because they depend from patentable independent claims.

All the objections and rejections have been addressed and overcome; and hence it is respectfully urged that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted;



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